
HOUSE BILL 2389

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Clibborn, Jarrett, Eddy and Goodman

Read first time 03/14/2007. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the state route number 520 bridge replacement
2 and HOV project; adding new sections to chapter 47.01 RCW; and creating
3 new sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the replacement
6 of the vulnerable state route number 520 corridor is a matter of
7 urgency for the safety of Washington's traveling public and the needs
8 of the transportation system in central Puget Sound. The state route
9 number 520 floating bridge serves as a vital route for vehicles to
10 cross Lake Washington, and the bridge carries approximately one hundred
11 fifteen thousand vehicles per day, over three times its design
12 capacity. Additionally, the state route number 520 corridor
13 experiences more than seven hours of congestion per day, impacting
14 other state highways and local roads.

15 The legislature further finds that starting in 1997, the forty-
16 seven member trans-Lake Washington committee began to identify ways to
17 improve transportation across or around Lake Washington. The project
18 for the environmental impact statement process became the state route
19 number 520 bridge replacement and HOV project in 2000, and the

1 department has analyzed almost one hundred concepts since that time.
2 The legislature finds that sufficient work has been performed to
3 conclude that alternatives other than the four-lane and six-lane
4 alternatives have been explored and rejected for sound reasons.

5 The legislature further finds that the state route number 520
6 floating bridge is subject to damage, closure, or even catastrophic
7 failure from windstorms and waves. Additionally, the state route
8 number 520 floating bridge does not meet current seismic standards, and
9 over the next fifty years there is a twenty percent chance of serious
10 damage to the structure if an earthquake occurs. Failure of the
11 floating bridge or the bridge approaches would cause injury or loss of
12 life and have a substantial impact on the region's economy.

13 Therefore, it is the conclusion of the legislature that time is of
14 the essence, and that Washington state cannot wait for a disaster to
15 make it fully appreciate the urgency of the need to replace this
16 vulnerable structure. The state must take the necessary steps to move
17 forward with the state route number 520 bridge replacement project.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 The needs of the central Puget Sound region and the state are best
21 served by a state route number 520 project alternative that replaces
22 the four existing general purpose lanes and adds two lanes of capacity
23 suitable for transit and other high-occupancy vehicle use. New
24 pontoons for the floating structure must be designed to accommodate the
25 installation of a high capacity transit system, such as light rail or
26 another comparable system. The department must incorporate this policy
27 into any preferred alternative that may be developed for the project's
28 environmental assessment documents.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW
30 to read as follows:

31 (1) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this act,
32 and after consulting with appropriate local jurisdictions, the
33 department shall hire a mediator to develop consensus-building among
34 the interested parties to support the policy goals identified in
35 section 2 of this act through fact-finding, facilitation, and
36 mediation. In evaluating the project impacts, the mediator shall

1 consider the concerns of neighborhoods and institutions of higher
2 education directly impacted by the proposed designs, and shall work
3 with the appropriate planning staff.

4 (a) The mediator must have significant professional experience in
5 (i) working with the impacted communities that surround major
6 transportation construction projects and (ii) mitigating the
7 construction impact on those communities.

8 (b) The mediator position under this section is a nonbinding
9 advisory position, and this section does not create a legally binding
10 mediation or arbitration position.

11 (c) The department shall hire the mediator within existing
12 appropriations allocated for the state route number 520 bridge
13 replacement and HOV project.

14 (2) The mediator must provide monthly updates to the governor and
15 the joint transportation committee regarding the status of the
16 consensus-building process. The mediator must provide the governor and
17 the joint transportation committee with a final recommendation by
18 October 31, 2007. The recommendation must reflect a balance of
19 solutions for carrying out the project that can be incorporated into
20 the legislative direction described in section 2 of this act.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW
22 to read as follows:

23 The state route number 520 bridge replacement and HOV project
24 finance plan must include state funding, federal funding, one billion
25 one million dollars from the regional transportation investment
26 district, and revenue from tolling. The department must provide a
27 proposed finance plan to be tied to the estimated cost of the
28 recommended project solutions, as provided under section 3 of this act,
29 to the governor and the joint transportation committee by January 1,
30 2008.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act may be known and cited as the state
32 route number 520 bridge replacement act.

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